(Not in Bragge) 18

A Treatise deuided into three parts, touching the inconueniences, that the Importation of Tobacco out of *Spaine*, hath brought into this Land. viz.

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1 *In the first is shewed how treasure was vsually brought into this Land.*

2 *In the second, what hath and doth hinder the bringing of it, with other incoueniences.*

3 *In the third, how to remedie the one, and the other.*

THe chiefe Spring from whence the mayne Current of Treasure flowing into all Christendome, hath his originall, is in the *Indies*, and by the Spanish gouernement is forced to set first into *Spaine*, and thence is deuided into all other Countries, according to the quantitie of goods, which out of their aboundance they furnish to supply their wants: hence it followes that the Commodities of this Land, are the Mynes from whench Treasure is drawne into this Kingdome. And the meanes from whench wee vsually draw it from *Spaine* are these.

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Firſt, (our goods being conuerted into Money) Wee prouided, ſo many neceſſarie Commodities of that Land, as were ſufficient to ſupply the wants of this Kingdome, and all the reſt wee brought home in Bullion, Witneſſe the Ship taken at *Cales*. Anno 1615. in which was ſuppoſed to be 15000 pounds in Money. It ſhould therefore enſue that almoſt twentie yeares of peaceable commerce, which wee haue had ſince his Maieſties Reigne, ſhould haue repleniſhed this Land aboundantly with Siluer, had there not beene ſome eſpeciall cauſe to haue hindred it, but what hath ſtopped the entrance of it, Ile diſcouer.

The maine decay of Trade, and the chiefe cauſe that hindreth the importation of Bullion out of *Spaine* is *Tobacco*, for there is conſumed by all computation, yearely in this Land, three hundred thouſand weight, and I deuide all the *Tabaccoes* wee buy for this Kingdome, into three ſorts and values. The beſt at vi. ſhillings the pound, the ſecond at iii.s.vi.d. the third at ii.s. vi.d. for neere about theſe prizes they coſt, and almoſt xii. pence the pound for the cuſtome there, which is v. ſhillings *per* pound, but to ſpeake with the leaſt Ile ſay iiii. ſhillings *per* pound, ſo then it doth coſt there, firſt penny Sxtie thouſand pound, and the diſorderly ſaile of our goods to buy it, hath abaſed the price of our commodities through all *Spaine*, *Bisky*, and *Portingale*, 20. *per Cent*. ſo what it doth coſt, and what is loſt yearely, amounteth to a hundred thouſand Pounds, all which would bee brought into this Kingdome if that were not.

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But who will hazzard to ſend home Siluer now when he may put it of by exchange, there to the Tobacconiſts at as much profit as it is worth heere at the Mynt, for ſo I haue done this yeare.

Now if this Weede were prohibbited, all men would ſtand vpon the orderly ſaile of their goods, & not ſell vnder 10 or 12. *Per Cent.* outward, as formerly they haue done, when little *Tobacco* came out of *Spaine*, and the moſt part of our returnes would be in *Bullion*, for on that we get 12. *Per Cent.* and on no other Commoditie, (*Tobacco* excepted) is any man certaine to get ſo much. Then who would not rather bring home ready money then goods, for which hee is vncertaine when to haue Money. This is the vſe of the *French* and *Dutch-men*, which maketh their Countries ſo aboundant in Siluer, for no Country is ſo ſmoakt as ours. In ſo much, that both *Spainiards* & al other Nations ſay tauntingly to vs, when they ſee al our goods landed (to vſe their owne words) *Que todo eſſo ſe pagtaa con humo*; that al that wil be paid in ſmoak; Now our gracious Soueraigne, knowing it to be a vitious and moſt pernitious weede laid great impoſitions on it, thereby to hinder the importation; But that brings the more damage to this State, for (except it be prohibited) our people will buy it what ſoeuer it coſt, and the more it doth coſt the more is our loſſe; for no ſooner did his Maieſtie lay an impoſition on it heere, but the King of *Spaine* laid two there, the one vpon his owne Subiects, the other on vs; But wee pay all, for they muſt raiſe it on vs; And no ſooner had his Highneſſe granted a Patent

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for it heere, but forthwith the King of *Spaine*, made it his owne Comoditie there, to no other end but to keepe vp and raiſe the price of it ſtill more and more, for if they get all our goods for ſmoake, we neede no more miſery as I thinke. To conclude this then, ſay our Kings Maieſtie receiues Sixteene thouſand pounds *per annum*. for the Patent of it (I doe not ſay he gets it) but receaues it, and of his owne goods already in the Land, and not of any thing brought in by the Patentees. But I ſay the K. of *Spaine* getteth a hundred thouſand pounds *per an.* thereby, for the goods he hath from vs for *Tobacco* would coſt him yearely ſo much if that were not. All which would bee brought into this Kingdome. And now hauing thus plainely ſhewed how it hinders yearely the importation of a hundred thouſand pounds, it of force followeth that it hath kept backe neere twelue hundred thouſand pounds, or at leaſt a Million ſince his Maieſties reigne, which were it in the Land, what ineſtimable benefite would it bring yearely to his Maieſtie, and the whole Kingdome by encreaſe of trade, who can rightly imagine, for mony is the ſoule and ſinewes of trade, and a well gouerned trade, the true fountaine of treaſure. But this is not all the good it hath done to *Spaine*, nor the preiudice it hath brought to *England*, which remaines to be ſpoken of in the next point.

3 The good then that we haue done to *Spaine* by buying our *Tobacco* from them, hath cauſed them ſince the yeare 98. to inhabite the teritories of *Caracoes Cumana Cumanagotta Trinidado Oronoque* & now

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at leaſt all *Maracaibo*, for in thoſe daies (I was an eye witneſſe to it) their people went thither more vnwilling then ours now goe to *Virginia* and the *Summer Ilands*, (yet the King gaue them leaue to carry & recarry all things Cuſtome-free:) but now the Caſe is altered, for if they would giue leaue to as many to goe as would, they would ſoone leaue few enough in *Spaine*. But whoſoeuer goeth now, attaines vnto it by great ſuit and eſpeciall licence, which will coſt at leaſt fifty pounds for each perſon ere he obtaine it. So ſodaine did the gaine by bringing Tobacco draw ſo many thither. And although that were the chiefe hopes, that drew them thither, yet now they bring not Tobacco onely but many other beneficiall and neceſſary Commodities, as *Ginger*, *Hides*, *Sugar*, *Sarſaparilla*, *Balſam*, *Peeta Carana*, *Gumme*, *Allome* and *Woad*. Inſomuch that the King reapeth already yearely benefit by it at leaſt 50000.li. and yearely it encreaſeth.

Now the hurt it hath done to this Land more then formerly mentioned is, that it hath altogether hindered that Plantation in *Virginia*, which in ſhort time might yeeld his Maieſtie as much or more profit, then the afore ſaid places do to the King of *Spaine* beſides the generall good it would bring to all this Common wealth, cannot be imagined, for if his Mageſtie graunt this one Priuiledge to them, the lucre of gaine by Tobacco, will draw thither more inhabitants in one yeere then the Company haue done with all their care and charge euer ſince the plantation; and let them once be drawne thither, they will quickely finde better Commodies then Tobacco, as

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the *Spaniards* haue done in the foreſaid places, ſo that the only meanes were to cauſe importation of a hundred thouſand pounds *per annum* of Treaſure, & ſuddenly to inhabite *Virginia*, and to draw from thence greate benefit into this Land, is nothing but prohibiting the bringing in of Spaniſh *Tobacco*; and ſuffer it only to be brought from *Virginia* & *Summer-Iſlands*, which I preſume our Soueraigne Lord the Kings Maieſtie may as lawfully doe as the King of *Spaine* may forbid vs the importation of *Pepper* and *ſilke* into his Kingdome, which he hath done vnder penaltie, of loſſe of life and goods. Againe, *Tobacco* is no commoditie of the groweth of *Spaine*, but of the *Indies*, with whom we haue no commerce.

If any alledge that thoſe Countries yeeldes not ſo good Tobacco as the *Spa: Indies*, I anſwere, there is ſome as good Tobacco brought from *Virginia* and the *Summer Ilands*, as the firſt Tobaccos were that we had out of *Spaine*. And no doubt, but as they diſcouering further into the Land, found better grounds for Tobacco: So will our people doe alſo as they goe further. But ſay they doe not altogether finde ſo good grounds as the *Spa: Indies* are for that purpoſe: muſt we of force therefore haue *Spaniſh Tobacco*, to our ſo great preiudice. We ſee their Spaniſh Wines are better then Engliſh Beere, ſhall we vtterly forſake that, and vſe the other. Alſo we ſee *Gaſcoine* wines are better then *Rochell* wines, yet the gouernment of *Rochell* will not ſuffer their people to ſpend any but the grouth of their owne Vines, and the labours of their owne people. And theſe Countries of

Spaine

Spaine that haue Wines of their owne growing, will not ſuffer any other to come in, be theirs neuer ſo bad and the other neuer ſo good, till their owne prouiſion be ſpent: and be they ſo carefull for their owne Conſeruation, and ſhall we be ſo careleſſe of ours: Nay, God forbid, I hope better Order will bee taken by his Maieſtie, and this moſt Honourable aſſembly. It may be ſome man ſeeing this, will thinke, I am interreſſed in the *Virginia* Company: But the Worſhipfull of the Company know the contrary. Its the zeale I beare to the good of the State in generall that makes me ſpeake. If ſo what I point at take effect, I ſhal be moſt glad, although to my own preiudice, for till it be forbidden I will trade in it, and make no queſtion but to get by it as well as any other man, But I defie the perticular gaines that brings a generall hurt. And thus I haue ſhewed what hinders the importation of Treaſure. To conclude this point, Shut the gates of entrance of Tobacco, and you open the gate for the entry of Treaſure: but open the gate for the entry of Tobacco, and you ſhut the gate of the entrance of Treaſure.

Ed: Bennett.